

27 FEBRUARY 1995

NEW FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the New Forest District Council held at Appletree Court, Lyndhurst on Monday, 27 February 1994.

p Cllr Mrs J K Vernon-Jackson MBE JP - Chairman
p Cllr S S Wade - Vice-Chairman

Councillors:

p Mrs N E Alldridge
p K E Austin
p Mrs O A M Badland
p S Bailey
p P A Baker
p Mrs P D Baker
p Mrs M J Bannister
p Major C Beeton
p E R Bowring
p Mrs D M Brooks
e D S Burdle
p J E Coles
p Miss S A Cooke
p D E Cracknell
e J G Craig
p W F Croydon
p B A Cullers
p B D Dash
p G Dawson
p J J Dawson
p Miss P A Drake
p B C Earwicker
p Major S S Elvery
p Mrs L K Errington
e L P Gibbs
p W J Greer
p A J C Griffiths
p R C H Hale

Councillors:

p D Harrison
p F R Harrison
p Mrs Y P Holloway
p Mrs A M Howe
p J M Hoy
p J A G Hutchins JP
p J Lovering
p J Maynard
p N D M McGeorge
p Mrs M McLean
p Miss G E Meaden
p R F Orton
p P G Pearce-Smith
p C G Ramsden
p A W Rice TD
p Miss G M Rickus CBE
p Mrs M J Robinson
p D N Scott
p Lieut Col M J Shand
p S A Shepherd
p A J Simmons
p Mrs B Smith
p Mrs L P Snashall
p G Spikins
p R G Vernon-Jackson
e G H Wales
p Mrs D Wilson
p Mrs P A Wyeth

Officers Attending:

P A D Hyde, N J Gibbs, D A Gurney, Mrs M Holmes, E S Johnson, I B Mackintosh, T R Simpson, Miss J Debnam and for part of the morning session, Mrs K Coles, S Gange, Mrs A Leigh and K Newman.

72. MINUTES.

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 9 January 1995, having been circulated, be signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

73. FORMER COUNCILLORS MRS S BIDMEAD AND C LEWINGDON.

The Chairman formally reported the deaths of former Councillors Mrs Selina Bidmead and Cecil Lewingdon. They had both served on the former New Forest Rural District Council until its dissolution. Cecil Lewingdon had then been elected to this Council, representing the Forest South Ward until 1987, when he did not seek re-election.

A number of members spoke of Cecil Lewingdon's commitment to his role of Councillor, and also to the duties of Chairmanship of the Environmental Services Committee. He had been an honourable man who had worked to ensure equal rights and opportunities for all Councillors and equal access to information within the Authority.

74. SHEILA CROCKFORD AND ROGER PENNY.

The Chairman reported the deaths of Sheila Crockford, the Council's Mobile Warden for Hythe and the Waterside, and also of Roger Penny, the former Area Surveyor for the New Forest. Sheila Crockford had been dedicated to helping the elderly residents under her care. The Director of Community Services and Members spoke of her immense kindness, sense of humour and zest for life.

Roger Penny had also died tragically young. Members spoke of his work for the Forest, and of his special qualities of diplomacy. He would be remembered for his achievement in promoting the introduction of the 40 mph speed limit on unfenced Forest roads, and also for his rare ability to solve highway problems in a way which was right for the Forest.

All those present stood as a token of respect for Selina Bidmead, Cecil Lewingdon, Sheila Crockford and Roger Penny.

75. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS.

(a) Building Control : Quality Assurance

Ken Barton of the British Standards Institute presented the Chairman with a certificate confirming the award of ISO 9002 (formerly BS 5750 Part 2) to the Council's Building Control Service.

This was the second Council service to achieve this quality assurance award, and reflected the Authority's commitment to providing high quality and efficient services. The Chairman congratulated the Building Control staff on their achievement.

(b) Customer Care Awards

The Chairman was delighted to present Kate Coles, Ann Leigh and Keith Newman with Customer Care Awards. Brenda McGavin would also receive an award but was unable to be at the meeting.

Members congratulated and applauded the staff on the helpful and courteous service that they provided to their customers.

(c) ABP (Port of Southampton) Harbour Revision Order

The Chairman advised members that the Department of Transport had announced that there would be a Public Inquiry into the application for a Harbour Revision Order which would extend Associated British Port's jurisdiction into the Western Solent. Discussions would be held amongst the local authorities and public bodies who had objected to the Order as to the best way forward, including consideration of shared representation and costs.

(d) Finance and Administration Directorate's Winter Dinner Dance

The Chairman was pleased to announce that the Finance and Administration Directorate had raised 900 for the Oakhaven Hospice at their Winter Dinner Dance which was held on 28 January 1995. The Directorate had now raised over 2,000 for the Hospice. The Chairman congratulated all the staff who had organised the raffles and auctions and who had purchased tickets to attend.

76. PLANNING COMMITTEE.

Cllr G Dawson presented the minutes of the meetings held on 11 January and 8 February 1995.

On the motion that the minutes be received and the recommendation be adopted:-

(a) Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act 1960 - Review of Exemption Certificate System (Minute 178)

Cllr Simmons believed that the Committee had agreed that there should be a fifteen day restriction on the use of land for caravans under the General Development Order 1988. He was advised by the Chairman that he should raise this matter at the next meeting of the Committee when the minutes would be approved.

(b) Hampshire County Structure Plan Review: "Hampshire 2011" (Minute 179)

Cllr Errington did not support the view that, for strategic planning purposes, the whole of New Forest District should be treated as South West Hampshire. She believed the Forest proper should receive the greatest level of protection and this would be diluted by the wider designation. She also expressed her support for the comments on the transportation strategy, particularly in respect to the inadequacies of the arterial road system linking the coastal towns with areas to the north and east.

(c) Poulner Farmhouse, Butlers Lane, Ringwood (TPO 509) (Minute 189)

Cllrs P A Baker and Mrs P D Baker disclosed interests in the subject matter of this item, but there being no discussion, did not leave the meeting.

RESOLVED:

That the minutes be received and the recommendation be adopted.

77. EMERGENCIES COMMITTEE.

Cllr Shand presented the minutes of the meeting held on 16 January 1995.

On the motion that the minutes be received:-

RESOLVED:

That the minutes be received.

78. LEISURE SERVICES COMMITTEE.

Cllr J J Dawson presented the minutes of the meeting held on 17 January 1995.

On the motion that the minutes be received:-

- (a) "Living with the Enemy?" - Towards a District Tourism Strategy (Minute 54)

In answer to a question from Cllr Errington, members were advised that attendance at the Tourism Seminar to be held at Beaulieu on 15 March 1995 would be an approved duty.

RESOLVED:

That the minutes be received.

79. HOUSING COMMITTEE.

Cllr Robinson presented the minutes of the meeting held on 18 January 1995.

On the motion that the minutes be received:-

- (a) Leasing Initiatives (Minute 75)

Cllrs Pearce-Smith and Wilson disclosed pecuniary interests in the subject matter of this item and left the meeting during the consideration.

Cllr Rice referred to the Authority's powers to lease properties to house homeless families, and to the upheaval and distress they suffered when the lease expired and they had to be moved to another home. He had been trying to find out whether this Authority had taken advantage of the concession allowing local authorities to extend the three year lease by two years, or until December 1995, whichever was sooner.

He asked for information on the number of families applying for, and benefiting from, an extension to be published in the Information Bulletin.

A number of members welcomed the new initiatives allowing housing associations either to manage tenancies on behalf of private owners, or to take on a lease for letting to homeless families. Neither of these initiatives was restricted to a three year period. These were welcome measures to bring vacant properties into use, and would reduce the need to build further homes on green field sites. There needed to be an open market for housing in the District, with a variety of house types and tenures being available at prices people could afford to pay, even if they were on relatively low wages.

Cllr Cullers moved that the Council's concerns about the imposition of a three year limit on local authorities should be raised through the Association of District Councils, but was advised that the Committee had already put forward a Notice of Motion on this topic.

Cllr Robinson advised members that the Authority had a reduced ability to commission new houses in the coming year, which would increase dependence on leasing arrangements and bed and breakfast. Representations were already being made to the Government through the ADC. The three year limit on local authority leases arose from the capital scoring limitations which counted a lease of longer than three years as capital expenditure. She undertook to reply to Cllr Rice's question in writing.

(b) Housing Association Grants - 1995/96 (Minute 77)

Cllr F R Harrison was concerned that the reduction in Government funding for housing associations would be compounded by private lenders being discouraged and increasing their interest rates. Housing associations only had funding for 99 properties in this District next year. He deplored this trend. Cllr Cullers believed that the shortage of funds was further heightened by the fragmentation of housing management. There were now numerous housing associations, each of which had their own administration, as opposed to the economies of scale and efficiency formerly offered by this Authority.

Cllrs Wilson and Griffiths referred to the increasing role of this Authority as an enabler, with housing associations taking on the actual role of housing provision. They considered that this was a benefit. There would be fewer homes provided this year, but that had to be set in the context of generous provision in previous years. In addition, the larger housing associations had efficient and cost-effective administration. They considered that the introduction of Compulsory Competitive Tendering was also welcome and would reduce costs, while the new leasing and

management arrangements would recycle existing properties back into use. Cllr Rice did not believe that there was a reduction in housing provision, if all sources of funding available were used.

Cllr Scott considered the Council should have sold its housing stock and used the capital receipts to build new housing. Cllr Bannister reminded members that the Council's tenants had voted against the sale or transfer of the housing stock. She also doubted that the sale would release as much capital as Cllr Scott believed, because of the existing debt which would have to be paid off, and because the stock would have to be sold in three tranches, thereby reducing its value. Housing provision in the District was lagging behind the need, and there would be a deficit of 500 houses by the end of the next financial year. She reminded members that housing association rents were expensive and tenants on lower wages would have to give up work and go onto housing benefit to be able to afford to move to a housing association property. By choice, these tenants would prefer to be in Council properties and to work. This view was shared by Cllr McGeorge, who deplored the lack of democratic control over housing associations.

Cllr Robinson recognised the need for more rented homes, at affordable rents, throughout the District. She deplored the low number of houses which could be provided during the next year. The Special Needs Housing Budget would be particularly hit, with only one small scheme to go ahead next year for this vulnerable group. The demand for accommodation for homeless people continued to rise. The budget for temporary accommodation in 1994/95 was 120,000. The budget for 1995/96 was 240,000 and was expected to be fully used.

(c) Housing Management Compulsory Competitive Tendering - Size and Period of the Contract (Minute 84)

Cllr Scott believed that the small local housing associations would be discouraged from bidding for the housing management contract, because of the scale of the business. This would leave the service more vulnerable to a bid from a large company, which was not a housing specialist, but was offering a management service. He believed the contract should be divided into three tranches for tender. He moved that this matter should be referred back for further consideration. The amendment was seconded by Cllr Spikins.

Some members considered that it was essential to follow the tenants' wishes and to offer the housing management contract for tender as one unit. This would retain economies of scale and also a consistent standard of management across the housing stock. A single contract would be easier to manage and allow easier contacts between the Council, the tenants and the provider. Subdividing the contract would neither make it less attractive to large management companies, nor more

practical for the local housing associations. There was also concern at the additional costs to tenants of going through the procedure of compulsory competitive tendering (CCT), when the tenants did not wish the service to be subject to competition.

Cllr Lovering believed that the Government had been forced to subject housing management to CCT through the inefficiencies of some authorities, and it was not possible to make an exception for more efficient providers, such as New Forest.

Other members believed the process of consultation with tenants had been rushed, leading to the imposition of terms for the contract which the tenants might not support if the implications had been more fully explained. There was an obvious diversity of view within the Council which could be further debated if the issue was referred back. It was also inferred that the contract was not being divided to give the Council's in-house bid a greater chance of success.

Cllr Robinson advised members that the Government's rules on CCT had been followed to the letter, which included advertising for expressions of interest in the contract, which had to be placed by 28 February 1995. There had been a good response to date. The tenants had been consulted on CCT over a number of months. While there had been no time for extensive consultations on this specific paper, the tenants' representative on the Committee had supported the proposed course of action. She was concerned at the inference that decisions on the contract had been taken only in the interests of staff, and re-emphasised that decisions had been taken in the interests of tenants alone. The tenants had a clear grasp of the implications of CCT, and had played a valuable role in setting the specification for the contract.

With sixteen members voting in favour and a greater number against, the amendment was lost.

RESOLVED:

That the minutes be received.

80. ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE.

Cllr Smith presented the minutes of the meeting held on 19 January 1995.

On the motion that the minutes be received:-

- (a) National Rivers Authority - Milford-on-Sea
Flood Alleviation Scheme (Minute 77)

Cllr Beeton did not believe that the National Rivers Authority had taken sufficient account of local circumstances at Milford, such as the effect of tides on drainage from The Danestream, flow patterns in the stream, and the effect of a bridge, when considering

the need for flood protection measures. Cllr Simmons was also concerned about recent flooding at the top end of the village, although he welcomed the proposed short-term remedial measures.

Cllr Smith advised members that the Director of Technical Services would pursue these concerns and report orally to the next meeting of the Environmental Services Committee.

- (b) Hurst Spit - Emergency Works, January 1995
(Minute 78)

While regretting the continuing delay in Government approval for plans to stabilise Hurst Spit, a number of members welcomed the support being offered by the local Member of Parliament in seeking a decision. It was believed that the difficulty was caused by local fishermen who feared that dredging operations would damage their fishing grounds and also valuable spawning areas. It was suggested that a meeting should be arranged with the fishermen to try to overcome their objections.

Cllr Smith was happy to discuss meeting with the fishermen. She advised members that the Environmental Services Committee treated the question of Hurst Spit very seriously and in addition, the officers had been very diligent in seeking a solution. Forces outside the Council Chamber had conspired to delay the necessary remedial action.

- (c) Capital and Revenue Estimates 1995/96 (Minute 79)

Cllrs Maynard and Scott disclosed pecuniary interests in the subject matter of this item and left the meeting while it was considered.

Cllr Wilson did not support any extension of the Concessionary Travel Scheme while the existing token scheme was subject to abuse. She believed that clear guidelines should be available on who was eligible for help.

Some members pointed out that the Fare Saver pass was an additional service, which would not replace the token scheme. It would allow all pensioners to benefit from cheaper bus travel during off-peak periods. Abuse of the token scheme should be investigated, but that should not prejudice the new scheme. Cllr Bannister doubted the value of the Fare Saver pass, which cost the pensioner 15 to buy.

Cllr Smith advised members that administrative measures were taken to minimise abuse of the token scheme, but there could be no control over what eligible people did with the tokens once they had received them. The question of abuse would be examined by the Performance Measurement Sub-Committee, who would try to balance this problem against the need to continue to include all the people who should be eligible. She believed

that the new Fare Saver pass would be of benefit to pensioners who travelled by bus regularly.

(d) Hampshire Ambulance Service

Cllr Greer believed that the New Forest was well-served by the Hampshire Ambulance Service who responded promptly and professionally.

(e) Appointment of Joint Working Party - Grounds Maintenance (Minute 86)

In answer to a question from Cllr Bannister, Cllr Smith advised members that tenants' wishes were increasingly important in consultations on issues which affected their wellbeing and way of life.

(f) Woodland Burials (Minute 88)

Cllr McGeorge welcomed the decision to allow woodland burials. This seemed to be a policy which had attracted total support.

(g) Adoption of Street Names - Consultation with Town/Parish Councils (Minute 90)

Cllr Coles suggested that a suitable road should be named after Roger Penny, the former Area Surveyor of the New Forest, in due course. The suggestion was noted.

(h) Recommendations of Waste Management Working Party (Minute 91)

Cllrs Greer and Maynard suggested that there was justification for providing a shredder for garden refuse at waste disposal sites.

Cllr Smith advised members that the County Council was monitoring a pilot project at Netley Abbey. Once the environmental and cost benefits of that scheme had been evaluated, it was hoped that the County Council would consider providing further shredders at additional sites. This was a County function, not for the District to provide.

(i) Lyndhurst Bypass (Minute 92)

Cllr Scott believed that the new junction between the M27 and A36 would increase traffic flows through Lyndhurst. A bypass was needed as a high priority. The traffic congestion was affecting all people and businesses in the south of the Forest and a bypass was needed in their interests. He moved that this matter be referred back for further consideration. The amendment was seconded by Cllr Bannister, who did not believe the proposed non-bypass measures would be effective.

A number of members believed that the County Council

recognised the problems, but could not proceed until there was an agreed route for the bypass. It was necessary to progress the non-bypass measures, which were practical to implement, to alleviate the problem. There was a recognised need for a right-turn lane to allow traffic from the A36 to turn west to Lyndhurst, but this would affect Ashurst, where traffic flows were projected to rise by 40%. The right-turn lane was, in any event, some years away from construction.

Cllr Wyeth expressed appreciation for the recognition and support for the need to alleviate the traffic problems in Lyndhurst. It was necessary to implement and then assess the effectiveness of the non-bypass measures. There was still no agreed route for the bypass, and even if a route was found, the Lyndhurst bypass would only be one of forty-five schemes in the County which were fighting for priority. Those at the top of the list might achieve a bypass by 2011. It was necessary to seek a Forest-wide solution to the traffic problems, as neighbouring villages were also being affected.

Cllr Smith advised members that the traffic problems in Lyndhurst would be raised at the meeting with the County Council on the Highway Works Programme, and an oral report submitted to the next meeting of the Environmental Services Committee. The non-bypass measures must be tried in an attempt to improve the quality of life in the villages now. These were achievable. She considered that there was no point in referring this matter back for further consideration as there were regular reports to the Committee on this subject in any event.

With one member voting in favour and a greater number against, the amendment was lost.

(j) Railway Privatisation - Attendance by Members at Consultation Meetings (Minute 94)

A number of members expressed concern about the proposed privatisation of the railways and, in particular, reductions in services and the loss of through ticketing. The present proposals did not require any station in the New Forest to provide through ticketing. Members were astonished that, with modern information technology, through ticketing would not be available at a major station such as Brockenhurst, nor at New Milton. Rail travel might become more important as the proportion of older persons in the population increased. It was suggested that the local authority should consider subsidising franchised "ticket seller/porters". Cllr Scott believed that all political parties should be represented at the consultative meetings.

Members were reminded that this minute related solely to the appointment of representatives to attend the consultation meetings. Cllr Smith advised members that this Council's representation had been limited to one

member and one officer. Progress reports would be included in the Information Bulletin.

RESOLVED:

That the minutes be received.

81. ADJOURNMENT AND RESUMPTION OF MEETING.

The meeting adjourned for lunch at 12.30 pm and resumed at 1.15 pm.

p Cllr Mrs J K Vernon-Jackson MBE JP - Chairman
p Cllr S S Wade - Vice-Chairman

Councillors:

p Mrs N E Alldridge
p K E Austin
p Mrs O A M Badland
p S Bailey
p P A Baker
p Mrs P D Baker
p Mrs M J Bannister
p Major C Beeton
p E R Bowring
p Mrs D M Brooks
e D S Burdle
p J E Coles
p Miss S A Cooke
p D E Cracknell
e J G Craig
p W F Croydon
p B A Cullers
p B D Dash
p G Dawson
p J J Dawson
p Miss P A Drake
p B C Earwicker
p Major S S Elvery
e Mrs L K Errington
e L P Gibbs
p W J Greer
p A J C Griffiths
p R C H Hale

Councillors:

p D Harrison
p F R Harrison
p Mrs Y P Holloway
p Mrs A M Howe
p J M Hoy
p J A G Hutchins JP
p J Lovering
p J Maynard
p N D M McGeorge
p Mrs M McLean
p Miss G E Meaden
p R F Orton
p P G Pearce-Smith
p C G Ramsden
p A W Rice TD
p Miss G M Rickus CBE
p Mrs M J Robinson
p D N Scott
p Lieut Col M J Shand
p S A Shepherd
p A J Simmons
p Mrs B Smith
p Mrs L P Snashall
p G Spikins
p R G Vernon-Jackson
e G H Wales
p Mrs D Wilson
p Mrs P A Wyeth

Officers Attending:

P A D Hyde, N J Gibbs, D A Gurney, Mrs M Holmes, E S Johnson, I B Mackintosh, T R Simpson and Miss J Debnam.

82. CENTRAL SERVICES COMMITTEE.

Cllr Wade presented the minutes of the meeting held on 24 January 1995.

On the motion that the minutes be received:-

RESOLVED:

That the minutes be received.

83. LICENSING COMMITTEE.

Cllr Mrs P D Baker presented the minutes of the meeting held on 26 January 1995.

On the motion that the minutes be received:-

- (a) Association of District Councils (ADC) - Annual Meeting and Conference 1995 (Minute 68)

Cllr Hoy was concerned about the potential impact on the New Forest allowed by the re-development of caravan sites with mobile homes. He believed that to fall within the definition of a caravan, mobile homes should be truly and lawfully mobile on the road network.

It was noted that the Planning Committee had put forward a Notice of Motion to the ADC on this topic, which had been approved earlier in the meeting. It was agreed that the Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen of the Licensing, Planning and Policy and Resources Committees would agree amendments to the wording to meet Councillor Hoy's concerns.

RESOLVED:

That the minutes be received.

84. POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE.

Cllr Coles presented the minutes of the meeting held on 7 February 1995.

On the motion that the minutes be received and the recommendations be adopted:-

- (a) Pay and Reward Strategy (Minute 94)

Cllr Smith disclosed a pecuniary interest in the subject matter of this item and left the meeting during the consideration and voting.

Cllr Cullers believed that there should be a Personnel Management Sub-Committee to deal with the pay and conditions of service of staff, and this matter should not be dealt with by the District Strategy Steering Group, who had a much wider remit. The Audit Commission suggested that local authorities should establish groups of members specifically to control staff pay and conditions and indeed this Authority had had a successful Personnel Sub-Committee until recent years. Members had a legal responsibility to ensure that staff contracts were affordable and lawful, and could not fulfil this obligation if they had insufficient information. He believed that Councillors in this Authority had inadequate information on salaries and conditions of service, and that these matters should have been debated in public, as there were fundamental questions of accountability and

affordability. The pay of Ministers was published and this set a precedent for publishing the salaries of the Council's officers. He moved that this matter be referred back for further consideration. The amendment was seconded by Cllr Griffiths.

In accordance with Standing Order 50, Cllr Griffiths moved that Standing Orders be suspended to allow this issue to be debated, in public, at this meeting. The motion was seconded by Cllr Cullers. Members were advised that, under Financial Regulations, they could not make a decision at this meeting as there was a possibility that the actions proposed could incur expenditure. It would be more appropriate to refer the matter back, or to seek an additional report to the Policy and Resources Committee.

With eighteen members voting in favour of the motion to suspend Standing Orders, and twenty-four against, the motion was lost.

Some members held the view that the District Strategy Steering Group would monitor the Pay and Reward Strategy and would recommend the establishment of a Personnel Sub-Committee in due course if they considered it necessary. It was not justifiable to promote additional meetings at this stage. They did not consider that it was appropriate to discuss the specific monetary value of staff in public, as this would not recognise the problems and susceptibilities of their employees. The agreed salary scales should be published on completion of the exercise, but there was no precedent, even in the Civil Service, for individuals' salaries to be made public. Ministers' salaries were published, but these were analagous to members' allowances, which were also, rightfully, in the public domain.

Other members held the view that this issue was of legitimate public interest and the Authority had to be accountable for the salaries it paid. Council Taxpayers had a right to demand this information and any debate should be in public. They considered that there should be a dedicated body of members to monitor pay and rewards, in accordance with the Audit Commission's recommendations.

Cllr Coles reminded members that a detailed report on this issue had been prepared for the Policy and Resources Committee and sent to all members of the Council, who had been invited to attend the meeting. The District Strategy Steering Group would keep this matter under review, and if, in due course, they considered it necessary, they would recommend the establishment of a Personnel Sub-Committee. Such a move at this stage was premature.

With sixteen members voting in favour of the motion to refer this matter back for further consideration, and twenty-four voting against, the motion was lost.

- (b) Local Government (Compensation for Redundancy)
Regulations 1994
(Minute 98)

Cllr Smith disclosed a pecuniary interest in the subject matter of this item and left the meeting during the consideration.

Cllr Griffiths was concerned that the power to take decisions under the Compensation for Redundancy Regulations had been delegated to officers in consultation with Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen of Committees. He believed that this involved a question of open government and had already requested information on a matter concerning the Contract Services Committee. He asked that he should receive a detailed reply and that members should be kept fully informed about this type of decision.

- (c) Fox Hunting (Minute 99)

In answer to a question from Cllr R G Vernon-Jackson, members were advised that investigations were continuing on measures to prevent a recurrence of the intrusion of fox hounds into the District Council's grounds.

- (d) Chairmanship and Vice-Chairmanship of the Council (Minute 101)

Cllr Wilson sought confirmation that the Chairmanship of the Council was a non-political role, and questioned whether nominations had been sought from the minority political groups on the Council. Cllr Greer shared her concerns and believed that the Chairmanship should not be drawn from just one political party but should seek to recognise service to the Council. The office of Chairman should be politically neutral.

This view was not supported by other members who noted that most candidates for election to the Council stood under a party political banner. The Chairmanship embodied the Council and it was, therefore, logical for the Chairman to be drawn from the majority party. Indeed, with the Chairman's casting vote, this was a practical necessity when the membership of the Council was closely balanced, as now. This matter could be given further thought after the next elections but it had been open to all parties to put forward nominations at the Policy and Resources Committee meeting.

Cllr Coles advised members that the Chairman of the Council was as politically neutral as they personally chose to be.

- (e) Applications for Grants (Minute 111)

Cllr Pearce-Smith disclosed a non-pecuniary interest in the grant application by the Venturers Search and Rescue, but there being no debate, did not leave the meeting.

- (f) Association of District Councils (ADC) Annual Meeting and Conference 1995 - Motions for Debate (Minute 113)

Cllr Rice advised members that on 3 March 1995 the House of Commons would be debating a Private Member's Bill which sought to protect wild mammals from cruelty. He moved that the Chairman should write to the local Members of Parliament to seek their support for the Bill and to advise them that the majority of members in this Authority were in favour of the proposals. He also moved that there should be an additional motion to the ADC in support of legislation to prevent cruelty to wild mammals. The amendment was seconded by Cllr Cullers.

Cllrs Lovering and Austin expressed their opposition to the motion. Other members supported measures to bring consistency in the standards of treatment of animals whether they were pets, farm animals or wild animals. With respect to the motion regarding the export of live farm animals, Cllr Griffiths re-emphasised the need to improve standards across Europe in order to prevent the suffering of animals being shipped as part of a trade which was presently legal.

With the majority of members indicating their support, the amendment was carried.

- (g) Outside Bodies (Minute 119)

Cllr Scott believed that each of the political groups on the Council should be represented on the Special Needs Housing Forum in order to give balanced, impartial support to its work. He believed that the Forum was a self-appointed quango. He moved that this matter be referred back for further consideration. The amendment was seconded by Cllr Griffiths.

Cllr Robinson advised members that the Special Needs Housing Forum had been asked to consider further, politically appointed, representation from this Authority, following the request made at the last meeting of the Council. The Forum had declined to invite the Authority to appoint additional representatives. She believed that the Forum was now achieving greater purpose and a better understanding of their role. They were consequently reviewing their Terms of Reference and membership. This Council could not impose its views on this body, who were doing a praiseworthy job in promoting the housing needs of vulnerable people in society. She disputed that it was a quango, as it had no budget. It was certainly self-appointed, drawing its membership from carers and workers in the field of special needs.

Cllr Coles was concerned at the tone of the amendment which appeared to impugn the wider roles of people serving on the Forum.

With two members voting in favour and a greater number against, the amendment was lost.

(Cllr Scott wished to be recorded as having voted for the amendment)

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the minutes be agreed and the recommendations be adopted
- (b) That the Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen of the Licensing, Planning and Policy and Resources Committees agree the wording of a motion for debate by the ADC, based upon that already put forward by the Planning Committee, seeking control of the density of mobile home developments and also amendment of the statutory definition of a caravan so that it may be lawfully moved on the highway;
- (c) That an additional motion be submitted to the ADC promoting the protection of wild mammals from cruelty, along the line set out in the Private Member's Bill to be debated in the House of Commons on 3 March 1995; and
- (d) That the Chairman write to the local Members of Parliament requesting them to support the Private Member's Bill and advising them that the majority of members in this Authority are in favour of such measures.

85. COUNCIL TAX 1995/96 (REPORT A).

Members considered a report which detailed the amounts which must be raised by each of the precepting authorities for the District, and how this must be divided across the Council Tax base.

Cllr Greer moved that the Council Tax should be reduced by the equivalent of 10 per Band D property. He was advised that the Council's budget had been set under Minute 103 of the meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee held on 7 February 1995 (see Minute 84 above). It was now incumbent on the Authority to raise taxation to cover this budget.

In the ensuing debate members discussed the efficiency of the new Police Authority and also the County Council's budget, in addition to the performance of this Authority in controlling expenditure and providing services.

The procedural motion that the question be now put was moved and seconded, and initially lost with eleven members voting in favour and a greater number against. Following further debate it was again moved that the question be now put, which on being put to the vote was carried by twenty votes to ten.

Cllr Coles moved the recommendations as set out in the report, which was seconded by Cllr Cullers.

In accordance with Standing Order 19, more than sixteen

members stood in their places to indicate their support for a recorded vote. The vote on the motion that the recommendations in the report be adopted was recorded as follows:-

For	Against	Abstain
Councillors	Councillors	Councillors
Mrs N E Alldridge	K E Austin	C G Ramsden
P A Baker	S Bailey	
Mrs P D Baker	Major C Beeton	
E R Bowring	B A Cullers	
J E Coles	Major S S Elvery	
Miss S A Cooke	W J Greer	
D E Cracknell	J Lovering	
W F Croydon	R F Orton	
B D Dash	A W Rice	
G Dawson	A J Simmons	
J J Dawson		
B C Earwicker		
R C H Hale		
D Harrison		
F R Harrison		
Mrs A M Howe		
J Maynard		
N D M McGeorge		
Mrs M McLean		
P G Pearce-Smith		
Miss G M Rickus		
Mrs M J Robinson		
Lt Col M J Shand		
Mrs B Smith		
Mrs L P Snashall		
Mrs J K Vernon-Jackson		
R G Vernon-Jackson		
S S Wade		

With twenty-eight members voting in favour, ten against and one abstention, the motion was carried and it was accordingly

RESOLVED:

(a) That it be noted that at its meeting on 9 January 1995 the Council calculated the following amounts for the year 1995/96 in accordance with regulations made under Section 33(5) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992:-

(i) 65,875.85 being the amount calculated by the Council, in accordance with regulation 3 of the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) Regulations 1992, as its council tax base for the year.

(ii) LOCAL COUNCIL AREA

ASHURST AND COLBURY	907.81
BEAULIEU	466.40
BOLDRE	1,031.70

BRAMSHAW	326.88
BRANSGORE	1,807.47
BREAMORE	179.97
BROCKENHURST	1,691.70
BURLEY	758.71
COPYTHORNE	1,177.09
DAMERHAM	235.15
DENNY LODGE	162.71
EAST BOLDRE	371.50
ELLINGHAM, HARBRIDGE AND IBSLEY	574.25
EXBURY AND LEPE	105.24
FAWLEY	4,572.11
FORDINGBRIDGE	2,251.69
HALE	252.19
HORDLE	2,120.18
HYDE	486.76
HYPHE AND DIBDEN	6,983.07
LYMINGTON AND PENNINGTON	6,214.29
LYNDHURST	1,358.63
MARCHWOOD	1,708.63
MARTIN	181.79
MILFORD ON SEA	2,507.87
MINSTEAD	359.58
NETLEY MARSH	805.59
NEW MILTON	9,626.04
RINGWOOD	4,997.48
ROCKBOURNE	160.20
SANDLEHEATH	248.32
SOPLEY	303.64
SWAY	1,575.32
TOTTON AND ELING	9,018.04
WHITSBURY	96.56
WOODGREEN	251.29
	65,875.85

being the amounts calculated by the Council, in accordance with regulation 6 or the Regulations, as the amounts of its council tax base for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which one or more special items relate.

(b) That the following amounts be now calculated by the Council for the year 1995/96 in accordance with Sections 32 to 36 of the Local Government and Finance Act 1992:-

- (i) 65,019,454 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 32(2)(a) to (e) of the Act.
- (ii) 47,798,110 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 32(3)(a) to (c) of the Act.
- (iii) 17,221,344 being the amount by which the aggregate at (b)(i) above exceeds the aggregate at (b)(ii) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 32(4) of the Act, as its budget requirement for the year.

- (iv) 10,785,179 being the aggregate of the sums which the Council estimates will be payable for the year into its general fund in respect of redistributed non-domestic rates, and revenue support grant, increased by the amount of the sums which the Council estimates will be transferred in the year from its collection fund to its general fund in accordance with Section 97(3) of the Local Government Finance Act 1988 (Council Tax Surplus), and increased by the amount of any sum which the Council estimates will be transferred from its collection fund to its general fund pursuant to the Collection Fund (Community Charges) directions under Section 98(4) of the Local Government Finance Act 1988 made on 15 January 1995 (Community Charge Surplus).
- (v) 97.70 being the amount at (b)(iii) above less the amount at (b)(iv) above, all divided by the amount at (b)(i) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 33(1) of the Act, as the basic amount of its council tax for the year.
- (vi) 1,858,394 being the aggregate amount of all special items referred to in Section 34(1) of the Act.
- (vii) 69.49 being the amount at (b)(v) above less the result given by dividing the amount at (b)(iv) above by the amount at (b)(i) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 34(2) of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which no special item relates.

(viii)

LOCAL COUNCIL AREA

ASHURST & COLBURY	83.26
BEAULIEU	76.99
BOLDRE	75.90
BRAMSHAW	81.73
BRANSGORE	77.24
BREAMORE	76.16
BROCKENHURST	79.24
BURLEY	74.10
COPYTHORNE	75.63
DAMERHAM	87.35
DENNY LODGE	73.79
EAST BOLDRE	78.53
ELLINGHAM HARBRIDGE & IBSLEY	76.11
EXBURY & LEPE	74.24
FAWLEY	124.04
FORDINGBRIDGE	107.35

HALE	79.40
HORDLE	84.97
HYDE	75.65
HYTHE & DIBDEN	105.45
LYMINGTON & PENNINGTON	109.08
LYNDHURST	76.11
MARCHWOOD	118.30
MARTIN	81.59
MILFORD-ON-SEA	82.45
MINSTEAD	77.83
NETLEY MARSH	77.52
NEW MILTON	98.91
RINGWOOD	90.50
ROCKBOURNE	77.92
SANDLEHEATH	79.15
SOPLEY	81.02
SWAY	85.36
TOTTON & ELING	107.93
WHITSBURY	78.81
WOODGREEN	78.09

being the amounts given by adding to the amount at (b)(vii) above the amounts of the special item or items relating to dwellings in those parts of the Council's area mentioned above divided in each case by the amount at (b)(ii) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 34(3) of the Act, as the basic amounts of its council tax for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which one or more special items relate.

(ix) PART OF THE COUNCIL'S AREA

These are the District plus Town/Parish Council elements only.

LOCAL COUNCIL AREA	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
ASHURST & COLBURY	55.51	64.76	74.01	83.26	101.76	120.26	138.77	166.52
BEAULIEU	51.33	59.88	68.44	76.99	94.10	111.21	128.32	153.98
BOLDRE	50.60	59.03	67.47	75.90	92.77	109.63	126.50	151.80
BRAMSHAW	54.49	63.57	72.65	81.73	99.89	118.05	136.22	163.46
BRANSGORE	51.49	60.08	68.66	77.24	94.40	111.57	128.73	154.48
BREAMORE	50.77	59.24	67.70	76.16	93.08	110.01	126.93	152.32
BROCKENHURST	52.83	61.63	70.44	79.24	96.85	114.46	132.07	158.48
BURLEY	49.40	57.63	65.87	74.10	90.57	107.03	123.50	148.20
COPYTHORNE	50.42	58.82	67.23	75.63	92.44	109.24	126.05	151.26
DAMERHAM	58.23	67.94	77.64	87.35	106.76	126.17	145.58	174.70

DENNY LODGE	49.19	57.39	65.59	73.79	90.19	106.59	122.98	147.58
EAST BOLDRE	52.35	61.08	69.80	78.53	95.98	113.43	130.88	157.06
ELLINGHAM HARBRIDGE & IBSLEY	50.74	59.20	67.65	76.11	93.02	109.94	126.85	152.22
EXBURY & LEPE	49.49	57.74	65.99	74.24	90.74	107.24	123.73	148.48
FAWLEY	82.69	96.48	110.26	124.04	151.60	179.17	206.73	248.08
FORDINGBRIDGE	71.57	83.49	95.42	107.35	131.21	155.06	178.92	214.70
HALE	52.93	61.76	70.58	79.40	97.04	114.69	132.33	158.80
HORDLE	56.65	66.09	75.53	84.97	103.85	122.73	141.62	169.94
HYDE	50.43	58.84	67.24	75.65	92.46	109.27	126.08	151.30
HYPHE & DIBDEN	70.30	82.02	93.73	105.45	128.88	152.32	175.75	210.90
LYMINGTON & PENNINGTON	72.72	84.84	96.96	109.08	133.32	157.56	181.80	218.16
LYNDHURST	50.74	59.20	67.65	76.11	93.02	109.94	126.85	152.22
MARCHWOOD	78.87	92.01	105.16	118.30	144.59	170.88	197.17	236.60
MARTIN	54.39	63.46	72.52	81.59	99.72	117.85	135.98	163.18
MILFORD-ON-SEA	54.97	64.13	73.29	82.45	100.77	119.09	137.42	164.90
MINSTEAD	51.89	60.53	69.18	77.83	95.13	112.42	129.72	155.66
NETLEY MARSH	51.68	60.29	68.91	77.52	94.75	111.97	129.20	155.04
NEW MILTON	65.94	76.93	87.92	98.91	120.89	142.87	164.85	197.82
RINGWOOD	60.33	70.39	80.44	90.50	110.61	130.72	150.83	181.00
ROCKBOURNE	51.95	60.60	69.26	77.92	95.24	112.55	129.87	155.84
SANDLEHEATH	52.77	61.56	70.36	79.15	96.74	114.33	131.92	158.30
SOPLEY	54.01	63.02	72.02	81.02	99.02	117.03	135.03	162.04
SWAY	56.91	66.39	75.88	85.36	104.33	123.30	142.27	170.72
TOTTON & ELING	71.95	83.95	95.94	107.93	131.91	155.90	179.88	215.86
WHITSBURY	52.54	61.30	70.05	78.81	96.32	113.84	131.35	157.62
WOODGREEN	52.06	60.74	69.41	78.09	95.44	112.80	130.15	156.18

being the amounts given by multiplying the amounts at (b)(vii) and (b)(viii) above by the number which, in the proportion set out in Section 5(1) of the Act is applicable to dwellings listed in a particular valuation band divided by the number which in that proportion is applicable to dwellings listed in valuation band D, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section

36(1) of the Act, as the amounts to be taken into account for the year in respect of categories of dwellings listed in different valuation bands.

(c) That it be noted that for the year 1995/96 the Hampshire County Council and the Hampshire Police Authority have stated the following amounts in precepts issued to the Council, in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, for each of the categories of dwellings shown below:-

PRECEPTING AUTHORITY

PRECEPTING AUTHORITY	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL	289.14	337.33	385.52	433.71	530.09	626.47	722.85	867.42
HAMPSHIRE POLICE AUTHORITY	30.00	35.00	40.00	45.00	55.00	65.00	75.00	90.00
	319.14	372.33	425.52	478.71	585.09	691.47	797.85	957.42

(d) That, having calculated the aggregate in each case of the amounts at (b)(ix) and (c) above, the Council, in accordance with Section 30(2) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, hereby sets the following amounts as the amounts of council tax for the year 1995/96 for each of the categories of dwellings shown below:-

PART OF THE COUNCIL'S AREA

LOCAL COUNCIL AREA	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
ASHURST & COLBURY	374.65	437.09	499.53	561.97	686.85	811.73	936.62	1,123.94
BEAULIEU	370.47	432.21	493.96	555.70	679.19	802.68	926.17	1,111.40
BOLDRE	369.74	431.36	492.99	554.61	677.86	801.10	924.35	1,109.22
BRAMSHAW	373.63	435.90	498.17	560.44	684.98	809.52	934.07	1,120.88
BRANSGORE	370.63	432.41	494.18	555.95	679.49	803.04	926.58	1,111.90
BREAMORE	369.91	431.57	493.22	554.87	678.17	801.48	924.78	1,109.74
BROCKENHURST	371.97	433.96	495.96	557.95	681.94	805.93	929.92	1,115.90
BURLEY	368.54	429.96	491.39	552.81	675.66	798.50	921.35	1,105.62
COPYTHORNE	369.56	431.15	492.75	554.34	677.53	800.71	923.90	1,108.68
DAMERHAM	377.37	440.27	503.16	566.06	691.85	817.64	943.43	1,132.12
DENNY LODGE	368.33	429.72	491.11	552.50	675.28	798.06	920.83	1,105.00

EAST BOLDRE	371.49	433.41	495.32	557.24	681.07	804.90	928.73	1,114.48
ELLINGHAM HARBRIDGE & IBSLEY	369.88	431.53	493.17	554.82	678.11	801.41	924.70	1,109.64
EXBURY & LEPE	368.63	430.07	491.51	552.95	675.83	798.71	921.58	1,105.90
FAWLEY	401.83	468.81	535.78	602.75	736.69	870.64	1,004.58	1,205.50
FORDINGBRIDGE	390.71	455.82	520.94	586.06	716.30	846.53	976.77	1,172.12
HALE	372.07	434.09	496.10	558.11	682.13	806.16	930.18	1,116.22
HORDLE	375.79	438.42	501.05	563.68	688.94	814.20	939.47	1,127.36
HYDE	369.57	431.17	492.76	554.36	677.55	800.74	923.93	1,108.72
HYPHE & DIBDEN	389.44	454.35	519.25	584.16	713.97	843.79	973.60	1,168.32
LYMINGTON & PENNINGTON	391.86	457.17	522.48	587.79	718.41	849.03	979.65	1,175.58
LYNDHURST	369.88	431.53	493.17	554.82	678.11	801.41	924.70	1,109.64
MARCHWOOD	398.01	464.34	530.68	597.01	729.68	862.35	995.02	1,194.02
MARTIN	373.53	435.79	498.04	560.30	684.81	809.32	933.83	1,120.60
MILFORD-ON-SEA	374.11	436.46	498.81	561.16	685.86	810.56	935.27	1,122.32
MINSTEAD	371.03	432.86	494.70	556.54	680.22	803.89	927.57	1,113.08
NETLEY MARSH	370.82	432.62	494.43	556.23	679.84	803.44	927.05	1,112.46
NEW MILTON	385.08	449.26	513.44	577.62	705.98	834.34	962.70	1,155.24
RINGWOOD	379.47	442.72	505.96	569.21	695.70	822.19	948.68	1,138.42
ROCKBOURNE	371.09	432.93	494.78	556.63	680.33	804.02	927.72	1,113.26
SANDLEHEATH	371.91	433.89	495.88	557.86	681.83	805.80	929.77	1,115.72
SOPLEY	373.15	435.35	497.54	559.73	684.11	808.50	932.88	1,119.46
SWAY	376.05	438.72	501.40	564.07	689.42	814.77	940.12	1,128.14
TOTTON & ELING	391.09	456.28	521.46	586.64	717.00	847.37	977.73	1,173.28
WHITSBURY	371.68	433.63	495.57	557.52	681.41	805.31	929.20	1,115.04
WOODGREEN	371.20	433.07	494.93	556.80	680.53	804.27	928.00	1,113.60

CHAIRMAN

(CL270295)